

FDD Newsletter

October - November - December 1991

Vol. 1 No. 5

First Things First

You'll notice that this newsletter is late again! You'll also observe that the time frame for which it covers has been extended, as well. I honestly hope that this will be the last late newsletter. I already have the next one made up. Next month's newsletter will consist of the documentation that comes with the CP/M starters' kit that I put together. I hope that it will whet some of your appetites to opt for it. I had no choice but to be practical & issue a newsletter for 3 months. I will still put out at least 12 issues. Let me wish each one of you a "Happy Holidays"! I was debating whether I should tell all you out there that the reason I was so late with this newsletter was that I got married on Veterans' Day, but I decided not to mention it in the newsletter. Some of you who've paid & some of you who haven't have mailed me criticism stating that I shouldn't wash my laundry here! Well, all I have to say is that those of you who haven't contributed any funds, I'm not going to pay any attention to you! That's one perquisite of publishing this newsletter. Now, on to the nitty-gritty.

80 Column Software Driver!

Yep! I visited the metropolitan Chicago area for Thanksgiving weekend with my new wife (oops!) to visit with my relatives (oops again!) since I'm a native Chicagoan. So, what's that got to do with the FDD Newsletter? Well, every time I go out that way, I also visit with Nazir Pashtoon, now the head of CATUG (Chicago Area Timex UG). He gave me a disk that has the long-mysterious & rumored 80 column software driver from Timex of Portugal, no less! 80 column software from Timex themselves! He gave me a demo & it just blew me away. You can actually choose the number of

characters on the line by POKEing location 32300 with the number. It comes with a built-in DEMO program that you run by LOAD *BOOT.BAS. It then asks whether you've got the Portuguese FDD system. It will load 1 of 2 different .COD files depending upon your answer. This software will work on the T/S 2068 whether you've got an FDD or not. It also mentions something about 128 column mode, but there is no instruction for that. The software was originally in Portuguese & was modified into English by Andy Hradesky. He got it from a contact in Argentina who got it from Portugal. He also put a "Personal Secretary" program on the disk. This program is something like a diary program. I was disappointed in it when I decided to test it for February 2000. It did not display the leap-year day, the 29th. The month after it, March 2000, picked up on the wrong day, too. The rule with the calendar, for those of you who might not know, is that when a year happens to be a century (those that are evenly divisible by 100 with no remainder) are NOT leap-years unless they are evenly divisible by 400 with no remainder, e.g., 1900 was not a leap-year, however 2000 is.

Getting back to the 80 column software driver, I'll supply anyone who sends me a diskette a copy of this unique & fascinating item. You must include a self-addressed diskette mailer with your diskette and enough postage to mail it back to you. For those of you who are unfortunate enough not to have an FDD system, send me a cassette instead of a disk. Cassettes will have a lower processing priority than a CF2 diskette. So, if you've got a member in a users group or a friend that has an FDD system, beg them to send me a CF2 diskette for you. Please format the diskette before mailing it to me. This will save me what little

free time I have. The software adds a repertoire of new commands to your Timex/Sinclair 2068 BASIC. This software operates under TOS, another disk system (providing that you make the proper command changes for your disk system - LOAD * to LOAD /), or with the use of a tape recorder & cassette. It should be noted that 80 column display is pretty slow. It looks to me as if you had a modem and were set to 300 baud. Nevertheless, it is a sophisticated piece of software for any T/S 2068. Try it, you'll love it!

Your Letters Dept.

Ron R. Ruegg writes in a letter dated 09/13/91, "Dear Jay, Thank you for your call. I expect that I shall receive the July FDD Newsletter shortly (to replace the one he misplaced - Ed.). Until then, I am using my (ugh) tape recorder.

I would like to offer, through an announcement in your newsletter to provide a series called "USING YOUR ROM". It will be TS-2068 applications development in Z80 assembly language. If anyone is interested in programming or in the programs developed, an SASE to me will do the trick. Yours truly, Ron Ruegg".

Ron's address is:

8270 Greenmoss Drive
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
70806

Ron also enclosed a copy of SPRITES 2068 with a copy of its documentation. It's very detailed and thoroughly written document. I will report on it in a future FDD Newsletter. Thanks, Ron!

A letter dated 11/22/91 from Gilbert R. Castillo from Los Angeles, California, writes, "Mr. Siegel, I am very happy to have made an acquaintance with you over the telephone. It was a very pleasant conversation we had about computing with the Timex 2000.

As you may have guessed I

still have very many questions, but I will make it very short because of time on your side as well on mine.

My #1 question is: can you supply a list of the programs in CP/M that you have so that I may choose from them?

My #2 question is: can you make a separate list of the non CP/M that you have, e.g., Tomahawk on disk. Then after I have received your answer or list I will send to you a list of what I want + the diskettes to put them on.

I am including the \$10.00 for the FDD Newsletter, and I will send more to cover the back issues that you will send to me, up to one year.

Once again thank you for your time and interest to share with me what you have for the Timex 2000. Yours truly, Gilbert R. Castillo".

To answer question #1, I don't have a list of the CP/M programs. I've not had the time to get my programs listed, although I have a dBASE II command file to read the disk for file names and create such a list. I will have to run it in the future & see if it does what I think that it should. To answer question #2, I don't have a list of Timex or Spectrum programs, either. If someone out there has a program to read disk headers & create a file that can be used for such a listing, write me with the details & I'll publish it here in the FDD Newsletter. I will also try it, when I have the time. It should be able to work with tapes as well as with disks. Gilbert, just let me know what your interests are and I'll go through all my disks to give you whatever meets your request.

John Oliger sent me his catalogue in October. He manufactures a competing T/S 2068 disk interface and other hardware, firmware, and software items. Of interest,

FDD Newsletter
October - November - December 1991
Vol. 1 No. 5

are a 2068 cartridge board, a 2068 expansion board, a 2068 EPROM programmer board, a 2068 Parallel printer port board & its driver software, a 2068/Spectrum joystick port, and a Vpp power supply.

The 2068 user cartridge board can hold 2-2764 or 2-27128 EPROMs in any combination and allows the 2068 owner to store their own BASIC programs in cartridge form for fast & easy access.

The 2068 expansion board is a must if you plan adding more circuits to your 2068 with John Oliger Co. products. The board includes one "spare" 20 pin IC socket for a user circuit, a rear edge connector feed through for attaching the 2040 printer, modem, etc., and the necessary circuitry for an ultra stable RGB interface.

The 2068 EPROM programmer board adds the capability of programming 2764 & 27128 EPROMs to your 2068 system. This one is a must for serious use of the 2068 User Cartridge board. This 2068 EPROM requires the Vpp Power supply or a 4-22 VDC regulated adjustable power supply w/volt-meter. If you have a Timex 1000 or 1500, or the ZX81, state so and the T/S 1000 documentation will be shipped to you, besides the 2068 documentation, at no extra charge. Apparently, this device works on the T/S 1000 series computers, as well.

The Vpp power supply provides 4.4, 21, & 25 VDC for use with any (EPROM?) programmer offered by the John Oliger Co. This circuit is designed to put as little stress on the EPROM as possible during programming and is recommended for use with these programmers.

The 2068 Parallel printer port board is a very small but very capable Centronics type printer port for your 2068 will drive most any printer that has a Centronics type parallel interface. The port uses the same port and BUSY bit assignment used by

the AERCo CPI-2068 printer I/F, & thus is 100% compatible with the vast amount of 2068 software that supports this interface. This port is fully decoded and contains a "PRINTER READY" LED to show your printer's current status. Software on cassette included with this port allows use of the standard LPRINT & LLIST commands & use of AT, TAB, and "," the full width your printer is capable of. Also included are hi-res screen dumps (via RAND USR calls) for the Oki-data dot addressable graphics printers, the Olivetti PR2300 ink jet printer, the Gemini 10X printer, and the Gorilla Banana printer. An ASCII screen dump of ASCII characters is also included for use with ANY printer. Unlike most other 2068 printer driver software, THIS software mainly resides in the 2040 printer buffer, using absolutely none of the RAM normally used by BASIC and well out of way of the for opening DFILE_2 on the 2068. (The software to drive this port is BUILT IN to the Oliger 2068 disk interface.) The port software cassette is available separately for only U.S. \$6.00. It can be used as an alternate AERCo port driver.

The 2068/Spectrum joystick port board is designed to plug into your 2068 expansion board to emulate the Kempston Joystick interface. This interface is for use with a Spectrum emulator, ROM or ROMswitch & Spectrum software. It is supported by any Spectrum software that is "Kempston compatible" looking to the software exactly like the real Kempston Joystick interface. Hardware-wise, this interface differs from the real Kempston in the fact that this I/F's port is FULLY DECODED so that there can be no hardware conflicts when using this device with other hardware add-ons on your 2068 (such as the Oliger 2068 disk drive I/F).

The Oliger Co. disk I/F manu-

FDD Newsletter

October - November - December 1991

Vol. 1 No. 5

al is available separately so that you can read all about the system before you decide to buy it. The manual is U.S \$5.00 p.p.

For a complete catalogue & current prices, you can write:

*The John Oliger Co.
11601 Whidbey Drive
Cumberland, Indiana
46229*

I received a letter from Al E. Green, of Tampa, Florida, dated 10/24/91 @ 10:00 p.m. He writes: "Hi Jay:

Now that I am out of the rubber room I will try to get what I have learned so far. (CP/M sure will make one NUTS)

First of all the CGP-115 printer/plotter is my toy not my main printer. The one that I use is a DMP-130 by Radio Shack (Seikosha). I have this printer configured to 8 bit, no parity, two stop bits and set to 2400 baud.

Also I have a 4 drive system, Drive A and B are Timex and C and D are 5.25 DSDD MITAC which will format to 620K.

But for some reason when I try to exceed 420K I lose the Dir track and the drives will not LOAD any of the programs that I have just saved. I don't know why this happens.

Last night (Wed.) I inherited 2 ATARI single sided 3.5 drives. (free). Will they work on the 2068? The only way to tell is to try them. Atari has them configured for drive #1 with a small jumper soldered from #0 to the input pad, out this jumper and make a new one, Install this jumper on #1 (drive B) and the pad right behind it using a 5.25 to 3.5 adapter card plug in the drive cable and power cable from the Timex power supply. Turn on the power, install the TOS.bak disk in drive A and a blank 3.5 disk in drive B and then FORMAT Drive B. Well what do you know, it worked. But will they read and write? Try the BACKUP program on the master disk

and COPY the MASTER to drive B. How about that a perfect COPY. But only 140K!!!!!! The ATARI drive formats to 360K. How did I get the Timex to do the same or at least 280K side A and B on the same side of the 3.5 disk?

As for the programs on the disk that I sent you, you are right some of them DON'T work. As I said before I am NOT A PROGRAMMER. I was lucky to get some of them to work at all. I work with the hardware end of the machine only. This is why CP/M has drove me nuts. How do you unarc a file?

I loaded in the DESPOOL and printed out the READTHIS.1ST like you said, also I have printed out most of the DOC and TXT files.

But as for the programs, no luck! Can the left margin be moved over and a page break be used when printing the TXT, DOC files?

Before I do something that I might be sorry later I am going to ask you about the following CP/M disks that I have and see if they can be transferred to the Timex System. The disks are for a BONDWELL CP/M MACHINE (3.5)

1	SYSTEM and UTILITIES	
2	SCHEDULER PLUS	
3	INFOSTAR 1.02	(REPORTSTAR)
4	INFOSTAR 1.02	(DATASTAR)
5	WORDSTAR 3.30	
6	MAILMERGE 3.30	
7	CALCSTAR 1.45	

The next 4 disks are labeled NetWare 1983 -1987 Novell Inc.

1	LAN_DRV_001	
2	AUXGEN	v2.12
3	LAN_DRV_002	
4	SHGEN-1	v2.12

The rest are for the AMSTRAD CPC 6128 (not the one that SEARS sold as a WORDPROCESSOR). NOT READABLE ON THE SEARS MODEL.

I have tried.
3.0" CF-2 disk

1	CP/M with DR. LOGO	
2	DR. LOGO & HELP	CP/M PLUS

FDD Newsletter

October - November - December 1991

Vol. 1 No. 5

- 3 CP/M PLUS SYSTEM/UTILITIES DISK
- 4 PROGRAMMING UTILITIES CP/M PLUS
- 5 AMSFILE DATABASE
- 6 PREMIUM PACK Amstrad BASIC

list of CP/M files on 4 disk:

AMDOS .COM	ASSIGN .COM
DDMODE1 .PRL	DDMODE2 .PRL
GSX .SYS	HELP .COM
KEYS .PRL	LOGO3 .COM
SUBMIT .COM	DDFLXR7 .PRL
DDMODE0 .PRL	DRIVERS .GSX
GENGRAF .COM	HELP .HLP
KEYS .CCP	LOGO3 .SUB
SETKEYS .COM	BOOT .COM
CLOAD .COM	CSAVE .COM
DDT .COM	DISC .BAS
DISCKIT2.COM	DRLKEYS .COM
DUMP .COM	ED .COM
FILECOPY.COM	FWRESET .COM
LOAD .COM	LOGO2 .COM
LOGO2 .SUB	MOVCPM .COM
PIP .COM	RITDEMO .COM
ROINTIME.DEM	SETUP .COM
STAT .COM	SUBMIT .COM
SYSGEN .COM	XSUB .COM

side 1 SuperCalc 2 (for CP/M PLUS)
side 2 SuperCalc 2 INSTALLATION

CP/M comes up with a black screen with white letters.

CP/M+ comes up with a white screen and black letters.

IF THESE DISKS CANNOT BE READ AND TRANSFERRED TO THE 2068 I WILL FORMAT THEM AND USE THEM FOR THE MASTER DISK ON MY MACHINE.

If you have a program that will read foreign formats PLEASE let me know and I will send them to you so we can COPY what we can use.

I have lost the docs that ZEBRA sent when I got the 64K controller and CP/M. Can I copy yours? It might help me get some of the programs to run.

I have one book on CP/M. by Alan R Miller (MASTERING CP/M))

I got the 32k nvm (32k non-Volatile RAM) from Paul Holmgren yesterday. Now I got to find the 43256 chips to see how it works.

Can you tell me if anyone has tried this board with CP/M?

From the desk of a SINCLAIR NUT:

A. E. GREEN

TAPMA, FL.

printed by a SINCLAIR QL and a DMP-130 printer:

Would like to have used WS.COM

Well, Al, I'll try to answer all your questions that you've asked me to the best of my ability. Sorry that it's been a while until I've been able to get around to answering your letter.

As far as why you can't: FORMAT * "C" TO "diskname" D, I've given it some thought & have been unable to determine exactly what's going wrong. It sure would help resolve this problem, as well as others, if you would give me your telephone number at home and when the best times to call are. If you wish that your telephone number is not to be given out, let me know that, too.

To UNARChive a file, the complete instructions are given on the "flip side" of the diskette with the Utility programs. Once you print this out, it should answer all your questions. A quick help with its syntax can be obtained by simply typing in: UNARC<ENTER>. You don't need to UNARC files that you just want to print out through the serial port. You'll find how to do it by just obtaining the UNARC syntax.

When you've loaded in DESPOOL, it does some odd things. For example, if you try to run the CONFIGUR.COM program, you'll notice that the data looks like garbage. Also, programs such as WordStar that use the CONTROL-F key will not work properly, because CONTROL-F will call in the DESPOOL program. This can be easily fixed by typing in CONTROL-B. This will remove DESPOOL from your system. The left margin and page breaks can be manipulated with the WordStar program that I gave you. If you can live with the left mar-

FDD NewsLetter

October - November - December 1991

Vol. 1 No. 5

gin the way it is for now & just really want page breaks, use PIP! Simply type:

PIP LST: = B:FILENAME.EXT[P]

The page break is automatically set for 60 lines. If you wish to change it, enter a number after the letter "P" within the brackets. Don't forget that in my example that the "B:" in front of the FILENAME is the disk drive needed only if not on the currently logged disk drive.

As far as all those files that you've got on other diskettes, I'm interested in getting them all. Some of them won't run on our T/S 2068 FDD system under CP/M for either one of two basic reasons:

- 1) Hardware specific or
- 2) They are for CP/M+ (ver. 3.0)

Our CP/M is version 2.2 & is NOT CP/M+. Let me know if you can send me all these files. I have other CP/M computers, and some of them run CP/M+. I had pick up a working Osborne Executive at this year's Dayton HamVention for U.S. \$30.00! It runs CP/M+. Whether some of the other programs can easily be converted to our system also depends if there are installation programs included with it. All CP/M computers do not use the same screen control codes to do the same thing and that is the reason for installation programs.

I don't have any programs that will read other CP/M formats. There are programs that will, but I don't have them in my possession, yet. Is this a problem for you?

As far as sending you a copy of the FDD docs, I'd be glad to after I either receive the requested remuneration for the CP/M starters' kit that I sent you or when you return the diskettes.

I don't believe that you'll generally be able to use any add-ons under CP/M mode so that excludes the use of the 32k NVM RAM. Does anyone else out there have

any comments on this or anything else in this newsletter? Let's here from you!

I received a letter from Donald S. Lambert dated 10/28/91. I'll re-print this letter in a future newsletter. In it, he mentions that the Larken & Olinger disk system I/F use the WD 1770 chip, as well.

...And In Conclusion...

A newsletter was received that I wasn't receiving previously. It is called QZX. It is geared for the amateur (ham) radio operator with Timex/Sinclair computer equipment, such as yours truly, KA2CSH.

I also spoke with Curt Carlson of the Mile High users group. He stated that the SMUG digitizer has a mistake in it. If you locate the 3 resistors next to each other (running vertically), they are actually reversed. If you switch the blue-gray-red for the orange-orange-orange, the EYBYNI program will scan in the multiple scans option with a decreasing darkness gray-scale. There is no gray-scale scanning with the resistors soldered in the way they are now. Problem is, John McMichael's video digitizing program fixes this within the software that he wrote. Curt has solved this by using a DPDT switch and hooking up a pair of resistors there.

Well, that's it for these months combination issue of the FDD NewsLetter. I hope to be producing this on a monthly basis again. You may contact me at:

Jay S. Siegel

1274 49 Street, #821

Brooklyn, New York

11219-3011

Telephone #: 1(718)853-7521

Sat - Thurs nites, Sunday all day
Wanted: Tech Draw Sr. - The one that uses the Koala pad & Zebra A/D - D/A to draw pictures. Jay Siegel. Contact me @ the above address or telephone #.